

National Archives

Constitution Avenue, Between 7th and 9th Streets
Northwest Washington, D.C.

Metro Stop: Archives-Navy Memorial



The [National Archives](#), occupied in 1935, is the official repository for all valuable and rare documents of our federal government, as well as a reference library. Its holdings date from the 18th century to the present.

As part of the [National Archives Experience](#), the [Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom](#) is the permanent home of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

These three documents, known collectively as the

[Charters of Freedom](#)

, have secured the rights of the American people for more than two and a quarter centuries.

The

[Magna Carta](#)

is on indefinite loan from the Perot Foundation and is housed in the National Archives Rotunda near the Charters of Freedom.

Surrounding the Rotunda are various exhibits where artifacts from the Archives' collection are displayed. The [Lawrence F. O'Brien Gallery](#) has changing exhibits. In the [Public Vaults](#), the permanent exhibit gallery, visitors experience fascinating original records (including Abraham Lincoln's telegrams to his generals, audio recordings from the Oval Office) and interactive exhibits that allow visitors to explore some of the most interesting documents, photos, and films from the holdings of the National Archives.

The [National Archives Experience](#) entrance is on Constitution Avenue and the [research](#) entrance to the building is on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Times of Operation

Admission is free to visit the National Archives Experience exhibits and accessible to all persons. Reservations are not required for individuals or groups wishing to enter through the general public line. Visitors should plan to spend at least an hour and a half to explore all of the exhibits. Visitors are encouraged to begin their visit by viewing the introductory film in the Archives' [McGowan Theater](#) .

The exhibits are open daily, except Thanksgiving Day and December 25. Hours vary by season (the last admission is 30 minutes prior to closing):

- **Spring and Summer Season (March 15 through Labor Day):** 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- **Fall and Winter Seasons (Day after Labor Day through March 14):** 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Reservations can be made and are recommended for individuals or groups for a self-guided or a guided tour visit to the National Archives Experience. The National Archives recommends reservations during the times of the year when it experiences heavy visitor traffic, which are generally during the months of March, April, May, Thanksgiving weekend, and the week between Christmas and New Year's. During the busiest times, the National Archives has noted that it can take up to 1 hour or more to enter the building through the general public line. Reservation requests must be submitted at least 6 weeks prior to the date of the visit. For further information on reserved tours, hours, and how to request a reservation, [click here](#) .

National Archives Links

- [National Archives Website](#)
- [Visitor Information](#)
- [News and Events](#)
- [Watch the National Archives Video: Democracy Starts Here](#)
- [Information for Researchers at the National Archives Building](#)

Places of Interest Nearby

- [Navy Memorial](#)
- [Old Post Office Pavilion and Tower](#)
- [National Museum of American History](#)
- [National Museum of Natural History](#)
- [National Gallery of Art](#)

[Return to Tours and Tickets](#)